



Future Perspectives on Entrepreneurship in Library and Information Science Profession and Associated Constraints

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ABSTRACT

There has been a clarion call for people to diversify their interest and acquire skills that can make them fit in properly in the present economic condition under which the country finds itself. Tertiary institutions have also been advised by education planners to introduce entrepreneurship courses in every discipline to prepare prospective grandaunts with the skills they need to be self-reliant upon graduation. However this novel idea is not working in most professions. This paper examines the constraints of entrepreneurship development in library and information sciences profession. It x-rays the concept entrepreneurship, types, Professionalism in jobs and duties of library and information science professionals. Impediments to entrepreneurial or business success in the world, strategies for preventing constraints of entrepreneurship. The paper concludes by recommending the way forward for future entrepreneurs who will emerge from library and information science profession.

Keywords: Entrepreneurship, Library, Information Science, Profession, Business, Constraints

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1. INTRODUCTION

The entrepreneur is an important input of economic development. He is a catalyst of development; with him we prosper without him we are poor. The entrepreneurs of the world are the wisest mind who leaves an indelible mark in the history of mankind. They make it possible through their action, and not through words. They do things in a complete new way, they think beyond the obvious, they go deeper, they think from different perspectives and angle. You give them any job they do it with perfection nothing is impossible for them. They respond positively to any situation and tell "certainly I can do this". Then they get busy and find out how to do it.

The entrepreneur of the world does have something to learn. They enjoy learning because they enjoy challenges. They believe, "who so neglects learning in his youth loses the past and is dead for the future". They know learning is not compulsory... neither the survival". Agreeably, the whole world is a laboratory to the inquiring mind of entrepreneurs of the world.



1.1 The Concept of Entrepreneurship

The term "entrepreneur" is defined in a variety of ways yet no consensus has been arrived at on the precise skills and ability that make a person a successful entrepreneur. The concept of entrepreneur varies from country to country as well as from period to period and level of economic development thoughts and perception. A review of research done in different disciplines over the years would improve our understanding of entrepreneur. The word 'entrepreneur' is derived from the French verb *entreprendre*. It means "to undertake". In the early 16th century, the Frenchmen who organized and led military expeditions were referred to as "entrepreneurs". Around 1700 A.D, the term was used for architects and contractors of public works.

According to Abott (1998) an entrepreneur is the economic agent who unities all means of production, the labour force of the one and the capital or land of the others and who finds in the value of the products his results from their employment, the reconstitution of the entire capital that he utilizes and the value of the wages, the interest and the rent which he pays as well as profit belonging to himself. He emphasized the functions of coordination, organization and supervision, further, it can be said that the entrepreneur is an organizer and speculator of a business enterprise. The new encyclopedia Britannica considers an entrepreneur as "an individual who bears the risk of operating a business in the face of uncertainty about the future conditions".

Walrus (1954) pointed out that entrepreneur is the coordinator of basic factors of production. He treated 'entrepreneur' as the fourth factor of production that combines other factor s such as land, labour and capital.

1.2 Types of Entrepreneurs

According to Bird (1988): These are the major types of entrepreneurs

- i. **Innovating Entrepreneurs:** innovating entrepreneurs are the entrepreneurs who have creative and innovating ideals of starting a new business. An innovative entrepreneur is one who introduces new goods, inaugurates method of production, discovers new market and re-organizes the enterprise,
- ii. **Imitative Entrepreneurs:** These are characterized by readiness to adopt successful innovations inaugurated by innovating enterprise. Imitative entrepreneurs do not innovate the changes themselves, they only imitate techniques and technology involved by others (Aba made)
- iii. **Fabian Entrepreneurs:** The term 'Fabian' is a person seeking victory by delay rather than by a decisive battle. Fabian entrepreneurs are those individuals who do not show imitative in visualizing and implementing new ideas and innovating but wait for some development which would motivate them to initiate, unless there is an imminent threat to their very existence. They are characterized by very great caution and skepticism in experimenting any change in their enterprises. They imitative only when it becomes perfectly clear that failure to do so would result in a loss of the relative position in the enterprise.
- iv. **Drone Entrepreneur:** The literary meaning of the term 'drone' is person who lives on the labour of others. Drone entrepreneurs are those individuals who are satisfied with the existing mode and speed of business and show no inclination in gaining market leadership. In other words drone entrepreneurs are die-hard conservatives and even ready to suffer the loss of business. They are characterized by a refusal to adopt opportunities to make changes



in production formulas even at the cost of severely reduced returns relative to other like producers. Such entrepreneurs may even suffer from losses but they are not ready to make changes in their existing production method,

- v. **Social Entrepreneur:** Social entrepreneurs drive social innovation and transformation in various fields including education, health, human right, workers right, environment and enterprise development. They undertake poverty alleviation objectives with the zeal of an entrepreneurs business practices and dare to overcome traditional practices and to innovate.

1.2 Other kinds of Entrepreneurs include:

- i. **First Generation Entrepreneur:** This category consist of those entrepreneurs whose parents or family had not been into business and was into salaried services.
- ii. **Modern Entrepreneur:** A modern entrepreneur is one who undertakes those businesses which go well along with the changing scenario in the market and suits the current marketing needs.
- iii. **Women Entrepreneurs:** Women as entrepreneur have been a recent phenomenon.
- iv. **Nascent Entrepreneur:** A nascent entrepreneur is an individual who is in the process of starting a new business.
- v. **Habitual Entrepreneurs:** A habitual entrepreneur is an individual who has prior business ownership experiences.
- vi. **Lifestyle Entrepreneur:** Lifestyle entrepreneurs have developed an enterprise that fits their individual circumstances and style of life. Their basic intention is to earn an income for themselves and their families.
- vii. **Forced Entrepreneurs:** The money lenders of yesterday, who are thrown out of their family business because of government legislation the neo-rich Nigerians returning from abroad and the educated unemployed seeking self employment form this class of entrepreneurs.
- viii. **Entrepreneurs by Inheritance:** At times, people become entrepreneurs when they inherit the family business. In Nigeria, there are a large number of family controlled business houses.

2. PROFESSIONALISM IN JOBS & DUTIES OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE PROFESSIONALS:

There are a couple of routine jobs and duties performed by library and information trained professionals which those who are not trained in the same field cannot undertake successfully. In fact, the routine jobs and duties are the ingredients of professionalism-having to do with thing which no other person can do except one to do that. They are as follows:

- i. Cataloging and classification of information and knowledge materials
- ii. Ability to select and acquire information resources to meet any kind and class of user
- iii. Indexing and abstracting of the information resources in any field of knowledge.
- iv. Selective dissemination of information (SDI) in any field of knowledge
- v. Current awareness services (CAS) to diver's users
- vi. Teaching a varied kind of library users or information literacy
- vii. Teaching, preparing and graduating of man power in the library and information profession,
- viii. Understanding of the man, human behavior information needs and how best to satisfy them.
- ix. Researching on topical issues in any chosen field of knowledge.
- x. Development and management of paper, offline, online (institutional repositories) archives



- xi. Digitization of teaching and learning resources,
- xii. Offering long lasting preservation method and techniques to works of knowledge,
- xiii. Ability to describe the credibility of information materials intended for use in creating new knowledge.
- xiv. Conducting search and retrieval of all kinds of reliable documents and publications within shortest possible time whether online, offline or manually,
- xv. Database designing and website development that suits information collection, organization, preservation and dissemination,
- xvi. Management of electronic versions of information resource
- xvii. Knowledge and use of evolving information and communication technology to perform all library routine jobs,

In addition, many others are unfolding daily

2.1 Impediments To Entrepreneurial Or Business Success In The World

There are several factors that can impede the success of any business enterprise. They can broadly be categorized into external and internal constraint while the internal factor simply refers to the personal qualities that can ruin the successful operation of the enterprise, the external impediments includes such issues as lack of financial capital, inadequate infrastructural facilities, competition from large firms, unfavorable government policies, dearth of machines and spare parts ,and paucity of raw materials, and limited knowledge of area of enterprise.



Fig. 1: Business Success Factors
 Source: soeasy.com



2.2 External Constraints

The external constraints are militating factors that are outside the business enterprise but are essential to the establishment and sustained growth of such enterprise. They include the following;

- a) **Financial Constraints:** Financial limitation is one of the grave problems of small business owners. The problem of the entrepreneur is compounded by frustrations they face when they go to look for loans at the banks. These loans are given to them reluctantly because of lack of collateral and when they succeed, the interest rate is usually more than a single digit. All these are taken into consideration when pricing the product which invariably results in increased pricing.
- b) **Inadequate Infrastructure Facilities:** This can be illustrated in the absence of basic infrastructure like electricity, good road, and pipe borne water for the smooth operation of a business. The absence of reliable postal and telecommunications system which could reduce the number of times the entrepreneur is on the road will militate on the smooth operation of any enterprise.
- c) **Competition from Large Firms:** A genuine fear of small business people is that of large competitors. The former fear that the latter will forced them out of business. Larger companies are naturally the large monopoly capitalist. It will be presumptuous for small business owners not to recognize the impact of the bigger organizations when they plan to set up similar business ,this is because they are the pacesetters in the areas of prices, products, internal and external operation techniques, among others. They are likely to have more qualified workers as there is the belief that there is greater job security in the bigger companies.
- d) **Unfavorable Government Policies:** Policy is a contract, which serves as evidence that the goods are insured. It is also a plan or course of action, as of a government, political party, or business intended to influence and determine decisions actions and other matters. There is a rampant abuse and poor policy implementation which appears to be a major issue to tackle among African nations. Zaka (2014) in a number of occasions the government involved professionals and experts in some areas to design good policies but in most cases the actual implementation becomes impossible. Something must be done to ensure that the country is returned to the normal route of economic prosperity.
- e) **Dearth of Machines and Spare Parts:** They also found it difficult to get sophisticated machines and equipment for better output. Machines, spare parts and raw materials use of local fabricated equipment and machines is usually the alternative with the implication that the product and packaging do not usually meet the international quality and therefore do not compete favorably with similar products manufactured from more developed nations.
- f) **Paucity of Raw Materials and Limited Knowledge of Area of Enterprise:** There is some times scarcity of raw materials, suppliers justified their tendency not to do business with SMES by citing the advantages of dealing with foreign and "big" buyers. The entrepreneurs resort to local supplying raw materials for cheaper cost in goods and services.
- g) **Group and Family Influence:** There is also the issue of conflicts that arise as a result of favoritism and nepotism from friends and relatives who persuade the entrepreneur to employ unskilled, untalented and incompetent employees. Based on these consideration, the company is prone to failure



- h) **Technological Problems:** The technological based of most developing countries like Nigeria is extremely low, therefore most machine are imported. The technological know-how is lacking, thus even though the spare parts are also imported; they are poorly maintained because of the lack of know-how.
- i) **Legal and Regulatory Frame Work:** From properly rights to access to finance, women face myriads of legal and regulatory challenges that prevent them from starting or formalizing enterprise.
- j) **Lack of Information and Network:** This type of network is essential in business as lack of access to various information, including finance and technology could be detrimental to any business.

2.3 Internal Constraints or Personal Factors That Hinder Entrepreneurship

These is an established fact that many small business owners lack the managerial skills and talent necessary for planning, organizing, directing and controlling their human and material resources. This has resulted in poor accounting practices, poor financial management and inefficient operation.

These are some of the personal traits that must be taken into consideration if the business is to be resuscitated and they include:

- i. **Fear Factor:** The fear of failure is so strong in African culture, the fact is most business ventures will fail few succeed, that is part of life, "no pain, no gain". Business is not for the faint-hearted there are risks but the key is making calculated risk.
- ii. **Thinking Small:** Many people think small, business is no exception. This is a form of inferiority complex carried other from the colonial era
- iii. **Short-Term Thinking:** Short term thinking is clearly seen as a business culture where people want to make money fast now not tomorrow. For example poor customer service is proof of this. Here entrepreneurs do not consider whether customers are satisfied or not however, these customers will never come back tomorrow if they have a wrong choice and they would probably advice their friends to avoid your business. Business is a long-term project.
- iv. **Not Ready for Competition:** Many times people want to do monopoly ventures, where only them are in that particular business, so as to avoid competition you need to be aggressive. Do things other companies are not doing make the customers feel like kings and queens.
- v. **Certain Cultural Belief:** Despite modernization, African culture still remains strong while many aspects of African culture are good, some limit enterprise, for example a strong belief in luck as opposed to careful planning will limit, If not bankrupt a business.
- vi. **Extravagance and Overspending:** This has killed many African businesses; the ultimate prestige status in Africa has long been driving imported vehicles which spare parts have to be imported also, while success should be at the expense of leading a small and new business with unnecessary overheads.



3. STRATEGIES FOR PREVENTING CONSTRAINTS OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

It is estimated that about half of all new start-up s fail in their first year, the failure is usually due to bankruptcy. The failures are personally painful for the entrepreneur and too often could have been prevented by paying more attention to certain critical factors in the business operation .this can be done by strategically planning ahead of time .planning is a process that never ends as long as the business is still alive .thus the need for planning cannot be over emphasized. The followings are possible steps to follow in planning.

- i. **Writing the Plan:** E ven though the entrepreneur may prepare the business plan, he/she may consult with the sources like the lawyer for the legal aspect, accountant for the financial implications, marketing consultant, for the sales of the goods and services, an engineer or technicians for advice on the best machine/equipment and vice-versa. These professionals among others are useful for the preparation of plan.
- ii. **Survival strategies:** The entrepreneurs should file before the venture runs out of cash or has no incoming revenue so that expenses not protected by bankruptcy can be paid .it is important to note that if the venture does not have legitimate chance of recovery it will not make too much sense to file for bankruptcy.

4. CONCLUSION

Library and information science, as a profession, has interesting, challenging, and lucrative career opportunities for thousands of library and information science graduates in Nigeria and elsewhere .at the beginning, one may still be uncertain about the career one may wish to follow on graduation, but, upon graduation, it becomes clear to the graduates that a lot of openings abound for them, still within the tentacles of the library and information science profession. As a matter of fact, before now, employment and career opportunities in library and information science, in Nigeria in particular, are strong with new and exciting job vacancies and opportunities emerging each day as organisations and institutions continue to establish and expand their use of libraries and information systems. Nonetheless, the situation nowadays is something else as there are hundreds of library and information science graduates without jobs.

No wonder then ,the cogent call for devising an alternative means of engaging the young graduates into income yielding ventures so as to deliver them from possible and unbearable dangers of having too many of them unemployed in a given communal environment.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

The term "prospect" evokes memories of related words like "anticipation" and "expectation". In that respect, several changes, mostly in the positive sense, are anticipated in respect of entrepreneurship. It is expected that in future, there would be increased support for entrepreneurship education by strategic stakeholders, like the national Directorate of employment (NDE) National association of small scale industries (NASSI) Nigeria Association of chambers of commerce industries, mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA), project development Agency (PRODA). These stakeholders are expected to collaborate with educational institutions by making their facilities available and assessable to students taking courses in entrepreneurship education.



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